

Daily Eagle

AT SPOTTISYLVANIA.

INTERESTING EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF GEN. BUTTERFIELD.

A Quiet March in the Night—A Single Shot From the Enemy—The "Long Roll"—A Surprise and a Capture—The Losses of One Brigade.

Gen. F. W. Butterfield had a very complete and interesting diary of the operations of a portion of Gen. Hancock's corps (the Second) in that memorable campaign under Gen. Grant toward Richmond. It is a faithful record, written down every day—sometimes after a desperate battle, while yet on the bloody field; sometimes after long and weary marches. It is a record of almost continuous, bloody battle of fifty-one days' duration, the corps being under the enemy's fire every day of the fifty-one excepting two.

Following we give extracts which are of thrilling interest:

May 11.—The two armies have been growing at each other all day, the lines being only seventy-five or eighty yards apart, but concealed in thick, second growth timber. I received orders from Gen. Hancock to place a six-gun battery in position, on the front line of battle. I selected a dense growth of small pines, where we could work without being observed by the enemy. Got the battery in position and dragged the guns in by hand. Sharpshooters lay all along the line, with heavy enfilading on our right.

May 12.—At 12 o'clock last night we left our position and marched around to the extreme left. After dumping our baggage and everything that would make the least noise, we quietly and slowly marched through thick woods, brush and weeds until an order came along the line in a low tone to "halt; make no noise; be as quiet as possible." The corps numbered then nearly, if not quite, 30,000 men, and so quiet were they during the march that one could scarcely have thought that there was more than one regiment in motion. Every soldier knew that there was fun ahead for the morning, and that to make the fun more interesting it was absolutely necessary to keep perfectly still, in order to give us the advantage, and we always liked to have the advantage in a fight. When our lives were at stake, and we all knew they would be in a few hours.

Gen. Carroll commanded the First Brigade of the Third division of the Second corps. As soon as our men were brought to a halt, and just as Gen. Carroll and staff had dismounted, Gen. Hancock, who was quickly and quietly, too, dismounted. Our men were all in position. The moon had gone down and the stars were shining brightly. All put in the time as best they could waiting for the signal to break of day. Some tried to sleep, some were cracking jokes, and others discussing the situation; but all spoke in a voice scarcely above a whisper.

AT THE DAWN OF DAY.

When the first streak of light appeared in the eastern horizon Gen. Hancock, who was wide awake as to what was about to transpire, asked one of his staff officers for the time. On being told that it was 3:45, he told Gen. Carroll that he better have his men fall in, and at the same time sent word to other commanders to do the same. Our horses stood ready, having stood saddled all night. We mounted and Gen. Carroll, in rather a stentorian voice, forgetting himself for the moment, called out to his men: "Fall in!" Gen. Hancock, who was quickly and quietly, too, dismounted. Our men were all in position. The moon had gone down and the stars were shining brightly. All put in the time as best they could waiting for the signal to break of day. Some tried to sleep, some were cracking jokes, and others discussing the situation; but all spoke in a voice scarcely above a whisper.

The lines of skirmishers were fifteen paces in front of us. Slowly, steadily, but firmly, we moved on, each soldier carrying eighty rounds of ammunition. Occasionally an officer could be heard to ejaculate in a low, but emphatic voice: "Steady there, boys; not so fast; keep quiet." Finally the suspense is broken, a single shot is fired. The enemy's outpost has discovered one of our skirmishers through the gray mist of light, and has fired at him and retreated in hot haste. Our skirmish line halts for a moment. Our first line of battle comes up with and joins them. Another and another shot is fired, and then the line of battle is ordered to move forward double-quick. Then several of the enemy's outposts are killed in great confusion is heard in our immediate "long roll" is being beaten; the bugle is sounding "to arms!" in the enemy's camp.

OVER THE LINE OF BATTLEWORKS.

But it is too late. The boys in blue have been ordered to charge with fixed bayonets. Over the first line of breastworks they scrambled, and are in the midst of the enemy's camp; they are right among their tents. The surprise is most complete. Some of the enemy are only half dressed; some not that, but the whole camp, some 7,000 in all, are prisoners of war, including Gen. Johnston, one of Gen. Early's division commanders. Many resisted capture, only to be bayoneted or shot. Several batteries of artillery also fell into our hands.

I met Gen. Johnston as he was passing over his own fortifications on his way to our rear a prisoner and he asked me whose troops these were. I told him they were Gen. Hancock's, and he said: "It was the most gallant charge I ever saw." I replied: "Yes, it was rather a gallant affair."

Gen. Carroll's brigade took two stands of colors—glory enough for one day. The enemy, much chagrined at the inglorious surprise in this quarter, soon came upon us in great force; but we held our position all day. It was right here, in our front, that two, which were about a foot in diameter, were completely cut down by musket balls. Such was the terrible fire from the enemy.

May 15.—We laid on the battle ground all night. I had charge of the skirmish line, and at 7 o'clock this morning I received orders to move slowly forward, supported by Gen. Carroll. We drove the enemy several hundred yards, capturing several stands of colors and two pieces of artillery. Gen. Carroll was wounded—elbow broken.

Carroll's brigade has lost in this campaign—since May 3, or only ten days—1,245 men and officers. Yesterday's and today's fighting is called the battle of Spottsylvania—Kansas City Journal.

An Optical Delusion.

In The Zeitschrift fur Meteorologie Professor J. Hann combats the opinion, not uncommon among tourists in the mountains, that a thunderstorm may be observed below the standpoint. He thinks that this can only happen on the summit of very high mountains, as careful investigation on the Alps have convinced him that the height above the earth of the lowest stratum of clouds in a thunderstorm is never less than 4,300 feet, while generally it is more than 7,500 feet. The apparent play of lightning beneath the spectator is simply due to an optical delusion.—Boston Transcript.

A careful chaparrone was heard to say not long ago to her pretty charge, a young girl whose figure showed some tendency toward embonpoint: "My dear, you really must not grow any fatter. You cannot afford to gain another pound. It must be stopped." And thus the valiant dowager, interposing her stately command between the young woman and the young woman's natural and lawful appetite for dinner, reminds one of Charles V. and the faithful old servant at the monastery of Yuste. With utter self-devotion he would fling himself in the breach between his royal master and some likely indigestible dainties, just as in former days he had shielded the person of royalty with his own body in the thick of battle!—Newport Cor. Boston Traveler.

Snow, Snow.

Winter is here. In order to avail yourself of first opportunity to enjoy a pleasant ride, call on

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THIRD.—The Catholic society are building a college immediately west of this addition, the cost of which will be \$100,000, and this plant is to be added to from year to year.

FOURTH.—The Missouri Pacific R. R. will in a short time place shops on the addition, and a depot of W. & C. and Ft. Scott R. R. will be placed on this addition inside of 30 days.

FIFTH.—The new Fifth Ward School building is completed, the cost of which is \$15,000.

SIXTH.—The street cars reach this addition, making it only 10 minutes time from west side to corner of Main st. and Douglas ave.

SEVENTH.—The fair ground lies immediately north of the addition.

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